



ASST. DIST. ATTY.
CHARLES R. WARD

PROBE ON WARD BRIBE CASE SET

DA's Aide Resigns for
Race, Is Accused

An assistant district attorney said the Orleans Parish Grand Jury will investigate accusations that bribes were accepted by former first assistant DA Charles R. Ward, who resigned Tuesday to run against incumbent DA Jim Garrison.

Ward turned in his resignation after Garrison changed his mind about backing Ward for one of two Criminal District Court judgeships.

Ward said he would seek a grand jury probe of the allegations, contained in depositions taken from three officials of a bail bonding company.

Assistant DA James L. Alcock, whom Garrison appointed as first assistant to replace Ward, said the matter will go before the jury.

LEGAL ADVISER

However, he declined to speculate on when the matter may reach the jury, or what charges could result. The DA's office acts as the legal adviser to the jury.

Garrison issued a printed statement in which he cited the bribery allegations as his reason for withdrawing Ward as a

candidate for the judgeship.

Assistant DA Alvin V. Oser and Ward were his recommendations for a judgeship until several days ago, Garrison said.

Then, Garrison said, he learned that employees of a bail bonding company had signed affidavits charging that money had been paid to Ward through an attorney.

After confirming that the affidavits existed, Garrison called Gov. John J. McKeithen Monday and withdrew Ward as a candidate.

Ward charged that Garrison knew the accusations were false, but feared the embarrassment they might cause.

Following Ward's resignation

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BRIBE CHARGES

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Tuesday, it was announced that the governor will appoint Israel M. Augustine, a Negro attorney, and Oser to the two judgeships.

Garrison was not available for comment, but Alcock said that as far as he knew, Garrison had not recommended Augustine for the other judgeship.

Ward claimed that Garrison substituted Augustine for him as his recommendation.

In announcing his resignation, Ward said that he and Garrison have disagreed violently on a number of issues.

Among them was the prosecution of Clay L. Shaw, who was acquitted on March 1 of a charge of conspiring to murder President Kennedy.

Ward did not participate in the prosecution of Shaw.

Another area of disagreement was obscenity legislation, which Garrison has decided not to enforce, Ward said.

Ward accused Garrison of capitulating to demands of black militants, resulting in the charging of only six of 26 persons arrested during student un-

rest at Southern University.

Garrison promised that the six "would never spend one day in jail," Ward said.

Ward also said Garrison overruled his orders to arrest members of the Students for a Democratic Society during demonstrations at Fortier High School.

Ward has often been mentioned as a possible candidate for councilman at large and for the State Senate.

He said he refused support for nomination in the Senate race on the urging of Garrison, who assured him of one of the judgeships.

Garrison's withdrawal of support for the judgeship was the last straw, he said.

DEPOSITIONS TAKEN

Ward said the bribery accusations were made in part by William Hardy Davis. Depositions were taken in March by Garrison's former law partners, Deutsch, Kerrigan and Stiles, he said.

The alleged bribe money was supposedly sent to an official of the bail company in the form of checks. The official would cash the checks and turn the money over to a local attorney, who allegedly delivered it to Ward, the affidavits charge.

The money was to influence Ward to hold back on the collection of bond forfeitures, it was charged.

One of the officials admitted in his affidavit that the "desired results" never were obtained.

Besides Ward and Garrison, there are two other possible candidates for district attorney.

They are Harry Connick, an assistant U.S. attorney, and Ross Scaccia, a former Garrison assistant.

Ward issued the following statement:

"Today I have submitted my resignation to Jim Garrison. I am resigning the office of chief assistant district attorney to campaign for the office of district attorney. There are many reasons for my decision.

"First, I am better qualified to be district attorney than Jim Garrison or any other person in

this city. I have run the office for the past six years while Garrison has investigated and tried only one case—Clay Shaw—which he lost. Garrison's record during the past eight years is won none, lost one.

"Secondly, I have recently had very serious policy disagreements with Garrison. We have violently disagreed on several of his recent decisions.

"He has informed me that he will not enforce any obscenity legislation including the recent acts of the Legislature. I am for strong law enforcement of those laws against pornography and smut which have been flooding this city.

"Also, Garrison recently overruled my decision to arrest students at Southern University for interfering with the police in resisting arrest. After I advised the police to make arrests of all persons involved in the riot, Garrison met with representatives of the black militants and capitulated to their demands and agreed to charge only six of the 26 persons arrested. He has further promised these six they would never spend one day in jail. I am against capitulation which I feel will only bring anarchy.

"Garrison also recently overruled my orders to arrest members of the Students for a Democratic Society for the demonstrations at Fortier High School. He has expressed sympathy for their revolt against the establishment and has recently said, 'No university is being burned which should not be burned.' These are just a few of the many major disagreements we have had.

"Ordinarily I would hesitate to run for any office currently sought by my employer because of my feeling of loyalty. This loyalty may indeed be a fault, but I believe if you work for a man you should be loyal to him. But Garrison has not been loyal to me or other members of his staff. He has not backed me when I needed his sup-

port, and loyalty is not a one-way street.

"Recently an officer of a bail bonding company accused me of accepting bribes. I am now making public these depositions which were secured by Garrison's former law partners, Deutsch, Kerrigan and Stiles. These affidavits made by . . . William Hardy Davis, who has been charged in criminal court, are demonstrably and obviously false. Garrison has told me he knows they are false. Yet, based on this alone, Garrison has withdrawn my nomination for judge of the Criminal District Court—not because he believes the accusations, but because he feels they are embarrassing to him in his campaign for reelection.

"I feel that a man who does not back his employees when they need support is no longer entitled to my support or loyalty. For this reason I have no hesitation about qualifying against him and seeking the office of district attorney."